

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1, 15, 26, 33 have been amended, and new claims 37 and 38 have been added.

Applicant again thanks the Examiner for the careful attention paid to the present matter. After reviewing the present Office Action, Applicant has modified the independent claims to clarify intended differences between the recited decoded frame cache and the past/future buffers identified by the Examiner. As stated in previous responses, Applicant knows of the past/future buffers, and the recited decoded frame cache is intended to operate so that complex video frame access operations not possible merely with the past/future buffers may efficiently be performed.

In order to address the Examiner's concerns, claims have been amended to recite "a decoded frame cache" where the cache is "configured to store an arbitrary number of previously decoded frames." Instead of simply tracking the previous ("past") decoded frame as in Toebe, instead many previous frames may be cached to facilitate decoding by removing the need to decode previously decoded and cached frames. Dependencies may be used to further facilitate decoding. The recited cache is not anticipated by Toebe (U.S. Patent No. 5959690), since, as will be appreciated by the Office, the MPEG past/future buffers can not anticipate caching and utilizing an arbitrary number of previously decoded frames, and tracking dependencies, as presently recited.

The failings of Toebe are not cured through combination with Proctor (U.S. Patent No. 6072830). It is further respectfully submitted the 35 USC 103 rejections are moot in light of the above claim amendments and related discussion.

Conclusion

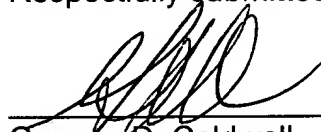
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims **1-38** are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If the foregoing amendments and remarks are not deemed to place the claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Attorney Steven D. Yates at 503-264-6589 as it is strongly believed such contact would expedite conclusion of the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 10, 2004



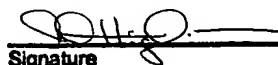
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